



DEBRIEFING FORM

Project Title: Attention I

Principal Investigator (PI): Dr. Dana Hayward (dana.hayward@ualberta.ca)

Thank you for your participation in our study. Your time and commitment to psychological research at the University of Alberta is greatly appreciated. The main goal of this study was to understand whether attention is allocated differently to trustworthy versus not trustworthy individuals, using different experimental measures such as response times. We also collected various questionnaire measures in order to see whether different personality traits affect the relationship between trust and attention.

Trustworthiness manipulation: In the first computer tasks you performed, you had monetary exchanges with three different people, eliciting different degrees of trustworthiness. One individual kept their word and always shared the money equally. A second individual broke their word and always kept the money. A third individual kept their word by sharing money with you some of the time. We are interested in where you looked and how much money you decided to share with each person.

Next, we investigated whether those faces differentially affected attention when you did a visual search task to find a ball. By comparing your performance for trials where a face was present versus those with no face we can see if faces in general affect attention, or whether attention is also influenced by trust.

We also measured how your attention was allocated to each of the three faces in a gaze cueing task. We expect that if trustworthiness can affect attention, then attention to the trustworthy versus untrustworthy faces will differ. One hypothesis is that we pay more attention to the trustworthy individual, as we believe they will provide helpful information. Alternatively, we may in fact pay more attention to the untrustworthy individual, as they are more likely to deceive thus we want to 'keep an eye on them'.

In order to create different levels of trustworthiness, we needed to conceal from you our exact research question. This is because our understanding of whether we can 'trust' another is often built based on repeated direct exposure/experiences, thus if we just told you that some faces were trustworthy and others weren't, this manipulation of 'trustworthiness' would not as closely mimic how trustworthiness is developed in real life.

Finally, the questionnaires you filled out at the end of the study measure a range of social functioning, personality traits and self-consciousness in daily life in typical populations. We are interested in examining whether individual participant differences relate to how allocation of attention to the three faces.



If you have any further questions about this research, please do not hesitate to contact the PI, Dr. Dana Hayward, at dana.hayward@ualberta.ca. If you would like to withdraw your data from the study after testing is completed, you may do so any time up until 30 days after your testing session was completed. This can be done by contacting the PI. If you have any questions about research participation, contact our Research Participation Coordinator at (780) 492-5689, or rescred@ualberta.ca.

For further reading on similar issues you may want to consult these interesting articles:

von Grunau, M., & Anston, C. (1995). The detection of gaze direction: A stare-in-the-crowd effect. *Perception*, 24(11), 1297-1313.

Friesen, C.K., & Kingstone, A. (1998). The eyes have it! Reflexive orienting is triggered by nonpredictive gaze. *Psychonomic Bulletin & Review*, 5(3), 490-495.

Thank you very much for participating. Without the help of volunteers like you, we could not answer many important scientific questions in psychology. We have one last request: **Please don't tell other people about what we asked you to do in this study, as it is very important that they approach the study as you originally did, i.e., without expectations and without full awareness of our objectives.** This is important because it is the only way we can obtain objective and valid information.

Yours truly,
Dr. Dana Hayward
Assistant Professor